

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
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O 271247Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2843

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5617

NEA/IAI FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, PGOV, IS, US
SUBJECT: ARMS PACKAGE - DAYAN'S AIRPORT DEPARTURE STATEMENT

1. DAYAN UPON DEPARTURE AT AIRPORT MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT IN HEBREW AFTER WHICH HE REPEATED HIMSELF IN ENGLISH. WE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE EXACT TEXT OF DAYAN'S HEBREW STATEMENT. APPARENTLY THOSE PORTIONS OF HIS REMARKS IN HEBREW WHICH WERE BROADCAST DID NOT PERTAIN TO THE ARMS PACKAGE.

2. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, LOCATED HIS RATHER CONFUSING STATEMENT IN ENGLISH, (REF A), BEGIN TEXT: WE FEEL THAT IT IS OUR RIGHT TO EXPRESS OUR FEELINGS ABOUT THE SPREADING OF AIRPLANES, WAR PLANES, TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. WE THINK THAT IT WILL ENDANGER ISRAEL AND WE OBJECT TO IT AND WE THINK THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT AND THE DUTY TO EXPLAIN THAT TO WHOEVER WE CAN -- IN THE CONGRESS, AND TO THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, AND HERE IN ISRAEL, THAT IT WILL BE MOST DANGEROUS FOR ISRAEL IF SUCH A SALE WILL TAKE PLACE. WE DON'T THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A PACKAGE DEAL ABOUT THAT. WE THINK THAT THIS IS A WRONG APPROACH TO IT, A WRONG ATTITUDE. IT WAS NEVER LIKE THAT BEFORE. WE THINK THAT THE AMERICAN
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ADMINISTRATION HAS TO LIVE UP TO THEIR PROMISES TO US, FOR THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, ABOUT PROVIDING US AND SELLING US WITH WAR AIRPLANES, AND TO CHECK OUR NEEDS ABOUT THAT, BUT TO NOT GO WITHIN A PACKAGE DEAL WITH THE NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES OR WITH SAUDI ARABIA. IF WE WILL BE PUNISHED BECAUSE OF OUR POSITION ABOUT THAT, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE PUNISHMENT, BUT THAT WILL NOT CHANGE OUR

VIEWS OR OUR POSITION. END TEXT.

3. IT APPEARS THAT THE ISSUE RESULTED FROM CONFUSION OVER DAYAN'S REFERENCE TO "PUNISHMENT." WE BELIEVE THAT WHAT DAYAN PROBABLY MEANT TO SAY WAS THAT ISRAEL MIGHT BE "PENALIZED" FOR OPPOSITION TO THE AMERICAN APPROACH.

4. DAYAN CLARIFIED HIS OWN REMARKS UPON ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES WHEN INTERVIEWED BY MA'ARIV'S DISSENTCHIK. THAT NEWSPAPER CARRIED THE FOLLOWING STORY ON APRIL 26, BEGIN TEXT: ON HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON, MR DAYAN EXPLAINED...THAT HE HAD NOT MEANT TO SAY THAT ISRAEL PREFERRED TO FOREGO THE AIRCRAFT, IF THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT THE AIRPLANES BEING GIVEN TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD NOT EXPRESSED ANY PREFERENCE. HE DESCRIBED THE EXISTING SITUATION: ISRAEL IS OPPOSED TO THE SALE OF THE AIRPLANES TO THE ARABS; ISRAEL IS OPPOSED TO TYING UP THE THREE DEALS IN ONE PACKAGE; ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPPOSED TO THESE TWO THINGS EVEN IF THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD PUNISH HER BY WITHHOLDING AIRCRAFT AS A RESULT OF OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS TO ONE PART OF THE DEAL OR TO THE ENTIRE DEAL..."ISRAEL WANTS THE AIRCRAFT SHE WAS PROMISED AND IS OPPOSED TO THE AIRCRAFT BEING GIVEN TO THE ARABS, JUST AS SHE OBJECTS TO THE THREE TRANSACTIONS BEING TIED UP ON ONE PACKAGE." END TEXT.

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5. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO LOCATE A COPY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS IN HEBREW SO THAT A COMPARISON WITH THE ENGLISH VERSION CAN BE MADE.

6. WE CONTINUE TO HOLD TO OUR ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ISRAELI POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. (SEE TEL AVIV 5248).
VIETS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
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TAGS: MILI, PGOV, SOPN, MASS, IS, US, (DAYAN, MOSHE)
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